



Zinc Compounds

The information contained on this document was obtained from a variety of sources including the EPA, State of New Jersey, ATSDR and Maine industries. The release data is from required reporting to THWRP, the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and to EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI).

What is it?

Zinc is one of the most common elements in the earth's crust. It's found in air, soil, and water, and is present in all foods. Pure zinc is a bluish-white shiny metal.

What is it used for?

Zinc compounds are used in the manufacture of open cell sponge rubber to help with the curing process. They are also used to help hold iron particles together during metal fusion. It is also a component of fuel oil.

Sources in Maine?

Paper Mills, Metal Finishers, and Rubber Manufacturers.

Where is it released?

It is released to air when zinc oxide powder is lost during the mixing process and when fuel oil is combusted. It is released to surface waters from wastewater treatment plants. It is released to land when boiler ash and chemical bags are landfilled.

Human Health Effects?

Breathing large amounts of zinc (as dust or fumes) can cause a specific short-term disease called metal fume fever. Exposure to zinc compounds can cause skin irritation. Eating large amounts of zinc, even for a short time, can cause stomach cramps, nausea, and vomiting.

Environmental Effects?

Rain or snow will remove zinc from the air. Most of the zinc in soil stays bound to soil particles. Zinc compounds can move into the groundwater and into lakes, streams, and rivers. It builds up in fish and other organisms, but it doesn't build up in plants.

2001 Releases In Maine

139,458 lbs

For more information please go to these websites: